services; artificial limbs center in Kabul and Mazar-e-Sharif; training of two batches of Afghan diplomats, Afghan Police Officers, journalists, Afghan officials from the office of Afghan President, and Afghan doctors; deputation of English language teachers to Afghanistan; computerization of Afghan Foreign Ministry; setting up of computer training center in Kabul; supply of vegetable seeds to Afghanistan, and supply of over 8000 educational kits to school children of Habibia School.

During his visit to Afghanistan on 10-12 August 2002, EAM had also announced an assistance package of US$ 4 million each for the rehabilitation of Habiba School and Indira Gandhi Institute of Child Health. Governmet is also supplying over 9500 tonnes of high protein biscuits for the school feeding programme from a part of 1 million tonnes of wheat pledged by India for Afghanistan.

Government has been associated with various international efforts aimed at promoting reconstruction, reconciliation and stability in Afghanistan, including Ministerial level Tokyo meeting on Afghan reconstruction; Afghan Support Group meetings; Bonn process, Emergency Loya Jigra; meetings held in Geneva to discuss rebuilding of Afghan security structures and meeting of foreign Ministers held in New York on Afghanistan on 13th September, 2002.

North Korean Help to Pakistan

955. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan has been clandestinely helped North Korea in its nuclear programme;

(b) whether India brought this matter to the notice of the USA; and

(c) what steps have been taken to declare Pakistan as terrorist State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Government have seen recent reports about Pakistan having helped North Korea in latter's nuclear weapons programme in exchange for transfer of ballistic missile technology.

(b) US Secretary of State Colin Powell stated in an interview that he had conveyed the US concerns about North Korea's nuclear programme

to General Pervez Musharraf. He stated that "President Musharraf gave me his assurance, as he has previously, that Pakistan is not doing anything of that nature." As regards past cooperation, Mr. Powell stated "I don't want to get into the past and sources and methods because there obviously were nations who were helping North Korea as they acquired the technology."

(c) It is well known that Pakistan has become the epicentre of international terrorism. Information regarding terrorist infrastructure, in Pakistan and Pakistan controlled territories, for support to terrorism is appropriately shared with other countries as a part of the global effort against international terrorism. Pakistan's continued involvement with and support for cross-border terrorism is widely recognised and many countries have called upon Pakistan to fulfill its commitment to end cross-border infiltration and terrorism.

Augmentation of Guwahati Passport Office

956. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the action taken and achievement made towards augmentation of only passport office of seven North Eastern States at Guwahati including construction of own building and hiring of new premises till those come up;

(b) whether Government would consider pursuing a consulate office of Thailand at Guwahati to facilitate passengers of NER to avail the International flight from Guwahati comfortably; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Regional Passport Office, Guwahati is currently working from rented premises. The State Government of Assam has been requested to provide a plot of land for construction of a Passport Office there. The Government have recently hired additional space in the present building to provide better facilities to the passport applicants.

(b) and (c) Does not arise. Thailand allows the facility of a 15-day visa to Indian nationals on arrival at Bangkok airport.